

MORRIS -

Gadsden House
329 East Bay Street
Charleston
Charleston County
South Carolina

HABS NO. SC-14

HABS
SC

10-CHAR,

49-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of South Carolina

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

ADDENDUM
FOLIOS

HOUSE AT 329 EAST BAY STREET
Charleston, Charleston County, South Carolina

HABS
S.C.
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Date of erection: c. 1800

Present condition: Poor

Description:

string
Brick, Flemish bond; three full stories; hipped roof; street elevation three bays; side elevations five bays. Corners of building are treated with stone quoins, and stone building courses occur at each floor line. At the right is the arched entrance door, which has jambs treated with alternating stone and brick quoins. Windows of the first and third floors are normal height; those of the second floor are full height from floor to ceiling. The garden side is treated with a two-story wood porch composed of turned Doric colonettes superimposed, the upper supporting a series of low segmental arches below the porch cornice. Interior trim simple but good.

OWNER: MARY JANE ROSS ESTATE, S.C. NATIONAL BANK, ADMINISTRATOR

Charles T. Waterman

11/1/40

MORRIS-GADSDEN HOUSE

An Addendum to
Gadaden House
329 East Bay Street
Charleston, South Carolina
in HABS Catalog (1941)

Address: 329 East Bay Street, Charleston, Charleston County,
South Carolina

Present Owner: Historic Charleston Foundation, 51 Meeting Street,
Charleston, South Carolina

Present Occupants: Tenants

Present Use: Apartment house

Brief Statement of Significance: This house was built soon after 1800 and exemplifies
a Charleston mansion of that period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and Subsequent Owners: Philip Gadsden occupied the house 1802-1806. (News and Courier [Charleston], June 21, 1958, p. 1-B). By 1813 it was owned by Thomas Morris, husband of Philip Gadsden's sister, Mary. (Charleston County Mesne Conveyance Office, Book K-8, 185). Later owners were Robert Hazlehurst; Elnathan Haskell (K-8, 185); Dr. Benjamin B. Simons (U-9, 247); his heirs; Ann Ross and Mary Henry; Elizabeth H. Bennett and Mary Jane Ross; Nettie Read (X-11, 425); Nathan Snyder (part interest); Robert Schirmer (F-49, 331); Joseph Miserendino (B-53, 99); Leonard Karesh (P-56, 133); and Mrs. Elizabeth Gadsden Woodward (C-66, 240).
- B. Date of Erection: Soon after 1800 (News and Courier, June 21, 1958, p. 1-B).
- C. Architect, Builder, Suppliers: Unknown.
- D. Notes on Alterations and Additions: Undergoing repairs to insure its preservation (1958).

Prepared by Beatrice St. J. Ravenel
August 1958

PART II. ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original Owner: Thomas Morris owned the property when the house was built.
- B. Later Owners: The property was transferred from Mary Gadsden Morris to Robert Hazlehurst, April 1, 1805; to Colonel Elnathan Haskell, September 22, 1813; sold to Benjamin Bonneau, June 19, 1829. Simons later sold to Mrs. Anne Ross and Miss Mary Henry, February 16, 1847.
- C. Original Plans: The following advertisement appeared in the City Gazette, April 6, 1804:

"Valuable and pleasant house on Gadsden's Green now occupied by Mr. Phillip Gadsden 80 x 200 ft House 30 x 54 Brick 3 stories 7 rooms and 3 in garret Kitchen carriage house and outbuildings all of brick."

[These data were obtained from the files of Samuel Gaillard Stoney, 129-X Tradd Street, Charleston, South Carolina, in an interview 6/14/62.]

PART III. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement:
 - 1. Architectural character: An early nineteenth-century mansion on a grand scale, with a number of good original wood and marble details, although parts of the interior have been altered.
 - 2. Condition of fabric: The entire building was repaired three years ago, and it is in excellent condition throughout.
- B. Technical Description of Exterior:
 - 1. Over-all dimensions: The main building is 30'-6" x 52'-6", with a piazza 10 feet wide on one side and one end. It is three-and-a-half stories in height and has its east front on the street.
 - 2. Foundations: Brick, with a brick water table at the first-floor level; brick piers form the porch foundation. English bond.
 - 3. Wall construction: Brick, 22" thick, laid in Flemish bond, 3-1/2 courses to one foot. The brick are of a

type common in Charleston, locally called "English brick"; they are large in size and of a fairly dark red color, with spots of brown caused by oxidation of iron in the material. There are marble quoins at the corners; each is four brick courses high. The walls under the piazza are stuccoed. There are marble string courses at the second and third floor levels.

4. Porches: A two-story wood Charleston Piazza extends along the south and west elevations; the first floor is five feet above grade. Both stories have slender Adam Doric columns. The lower order has a thin two-piece entablature; the second floor has shallow segmental arches with an archivolt, and a cornice above the spandrels. The first story is ceiled with matched boards, the second story with long molded panels. There is a simple railing with square balusters on each floor; it is probably a replacement. The piazza may or may not be an original feature, but in any case it was apparently built in the early nineteenth century.
5. Chimneys: One brick chimney stack is located slightly off the center; it is treated near the top with projecting brick courses to form a neck, and projecting bricks on edge, resembling dentils, at the crown.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors:
 - (1) Street entrance. The main doorway is located near the north corner of the east wall. It has a semi-circular arch, with marble impost blocks and ornamental keystone. The impost blocks are three brick courses high and are carved in relief with a rosette on each, of four leaves placed diagonally. There is a rusticated treatment with marble blocks two courses high, alternating with two brick courses; the voussoirs of the arch alternate similarly. The present six-panel door is new, as is the semicircular transom. An exterior stairway and stoop, of marble, leads along the wall to the doorway. There are eight steps with nosing. The simple iron railing has two bars to each tread, with a footscraper built into the lower portion.
 - (2) Central doorways on the south elevation lead to the piazza at the first and second stories; they have simple masonry openings, square-headed.

- b. Windows: There are three bays on the east end, five bays irregularly spaced on the south, two on the west, and three irregularly spaced on the north. Third-story openings have flat brick arches. The other windows on the east end have marble lintels in the form of a flat arch with ornamental keystones. All windows have marble sills, except for the second story on the east end, where the window openings extend down to the string course at floor level. Sash are double hung, six lights over six lights, except for nine-light-over-nine-light sash at the second story, east end. A semicircular-arched window appears near the north end of the west elevation, at the third story above the piazza roof; this admits light to the stair hall.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The main roof and the piazza roof are hipped, and at present covered with sheet metal, standing seams.
- b. Cornice: The house cornice is stone, with a narrow plain frieze, cavetto bed molding, fascia, fillet and cyma recta. There are modern sheet-metal gutters and round conductors.
- c. Dormers: There are two hipped dormers on the north and south sides, one at the west, and one gabled dormer on the east. All have six-light-over-six-light double-hung sash.

- 8. Rear addition: A one-story stucco wing of uncertain date extends westward along the north wall of the building, at the west end.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: A long hall, 7'-2" wide, leads from the entrance, along the north wall, through an arched opening into a stair hall, 9'-1" wide. South of this are two main rooms, the one at the east being 18'-9" wide and 24'-0" deep, and the one at the west being 17'-2" wide by 19'-3" deep. The chimney is located between these rooms, leaving a small entry to the piazza at the south, and small closets adjoining the chimney at the north. Floor-to-floor height is 14'-1". The east main room has been divided for apartment use.

- b. Second floor: This is similar to the first floor, with the space over the front hall thrown into the east main room. This eastern portion had been greatly altered at an undetermined date, and three years ago was adapted for apartment use. Floor-to-floor height is 14'-10".
 - c. Third floor: This has two main rooms at the south, and the stair hall and a smaller room along the north. This floor remains virtually in its original state [Interview with Mrs. S. Henry Edmonds, Director, Historic Charleston Foundation]. Floor-to-floor height is 12'-6".
 - d. Attic: This is similar to the third floor, making allowance for the smaller space available under the slope of the roof.
- 2. Stairway: This has two flights, leading to and returning from a landing, with a narrow well, open string and simple molded handrail. It is similar on each floor. There are 24 risers between the first and second floors.
 - 3. Flooring: This is typically of longleaf yellow pine, the boards varying from 5" to 6" in width.
 - 4. Wall and ceiling finish: This is typically plastered and painted. Wainscoting is of plaster, with wood base and chair rail. Wooden cornices.
 - 5. Doorways and doors: Door and window openings have wooden architrave trim, with plinth. Doors are six panel, hung on two butts. Windows have paneled interior shutters.
 - 6. Additional notes on interior finish and trim:
 - a. First-floor hall: A plaster cornice with modillions extends around the front half, between the entrance and the arched opening; this cornice was generally in good condition but a few modillions were replaced when repairs were made a few years ago. The stair hall has a wooden cornice, and a wall rail similar to the handrail follows the stairway. There is a panel with a semicircular head on the west wall at the stair landing; it may be a window opening which was closed up. The opening between the two parts of the hall has paneled wood pilasters of considerable projection, with reeded neck and denticulated impost. The arch is semicircular and has a wood archivolt.
 - b. Second floor, west room: This is virtually in its original state. The cornice has dentils and a plain

frieze. The mantel is of dark gray marble with Ionic columns and a paneled center block in the frieze; it is thought to date from about 1820 (mantels on the first story are similar; those on the third story are of wood).

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: During the nineteenth century East Bay Street was a quiet residential way, but within recent years it has become a busy thoroughfare with business and industrial uses replacing many of the old residences. The restoration of this property and some others nearby has helped to arrest the deterioration of the neighborhood. This property is on the west side of the street, midway between Calhoun Street and minority street.
2. Enclosures: Brick walls with elliptical-arched panels extend along the north and south lot lines. There is a brick wall along the street from the corner of the house to the south lot line; a small part of this appears old but most of it was constructed recently to provide an attractive automobile entrance, with wrought-iron gates.
3. Outbuildings: A two-story stucco building with a hip roof extends westward along the north lot line, a short distance west of the main building; it is about 35' long. It is an original service building, originally very simple inside, which was almost entirely remodeled a few years ago to convert it into a dwelling. The second-floor fenestration (five bays) remains unchanged [Interview with Mrs. S. Henry Edmonds, Director, Historic Charleston Foundation].

Prepared by Harley J. McKee
Architect, National Park Service
July 1962

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
1845 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240